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Appendix IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 201–A, asked by Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 466 supra.]

Letter from the Collector of South Arcot, R.O.C. No. A–5-12779/30, dated the 10th January 1931.

1. *Extent of the cyclone and the floods*.—There was a storm on the night of the 28th November 1930 which continued for about 36 hours accompanied by a rainfall of $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Tindivanam taluk, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Gingee taluk and 5 inches in Villupuram taluk. The storm swept over the above three taluks and also Cuddalore taluk. Floods were caused by the rivers overflowing and also water escaping from breached tanks.

2. *Total number of lives lost and of families that have been rendered homeless.*—Two boys in Tindivanam taluk were drowned by the floods in Ongur river and one old woman died in Villupuram taluk on account of the collapses of house. One hundred and eleven families were rendered homeless (96 families in Tindivanam taluk and 15 in Gingee taluk).

3. (*a*) *Extent of damage done to Government property other than irrigation works.*—Two cattle pounds in Tindivanam taluk collapsed owing to heavy rain.

(*b*) *Extent of damage to irrigation works (not in charge of Public Works Department).*—One hundred and eighty-three minor irrigation works in Tindivanam taluk, 92 in Gingee, 44 in Villupuram and one in Cuddalore—320 tanks in all have been breached. Of these, 22 have been badly damaged. The total damage is estimated at Rs. 2,00,000.

(*c*) *Extent of damage done to crops and fields and other private property including houses and livestock.*—Very few houses have been destroyed though in many villages a few houses have suffered from minor dilapidations. It is merely mud and thatched houses that have been materially damaged. Fields in front of breach sites have been silted. There was no loss of livestock. But there was loss of crop in all the four taluks. The damage to private property is thus estimated at Rs. 33,150 in Tindivanam taluk, Rs. 13,750 in Gingee taluk, Rs. 3,000 in Villupuram taluk and Rs. 1,75,640 in Cuddalore taluk where second year betel gardens in twelve villages have been completely destroyed on account of the strong wind *making a total of* Rs. 2,25,540.

4. *Measures taken to mitigate the effects of floods.*—As soon as communications were partially restored early in December the Collector, Executive Engineer, Sub-Collector and Minor Irrigation Supervisor and all available Revenue, Public Works Department and Minor Irrigation staff proceeded to the affected taluks and hurried on with restoration work. The ryots were ordered to carry out their customary duties of ring-bending the breaches by kudimaramat so as to save the remaining supplies and any supply that may be received before the end of the monsoon. The Minor Irrigation staff were directed to prepare estimates for closing breaches. Additional Minor Irrigation staff were posted without delay and at present there are four Minor Irrigation Overseers at work in Tindivanam taluk and three in Gingee taluk. Out of the 320 tanks that were breached, estimates for 209 tanks have been

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prepared and 79 works already let on contract. Everything possible (not being the duty of the Public Works Department) has been done with a view to mitigate the effects of the floods.

5. *The measures taken for the relief of distress and their cost to Government.*—The Adi-Dravidas of Kuchikolattur in Tindivanam taluk lost their houses and stock of grain by the floods in the Ongur river; 34 households were paid Rs. 340 from my discretionary grant. Also 160 palmyra trees and 500 palmyra leaves were granted by the Sub-Collector for the poor persons in Kuchikolattur and two other affected villages. The total cost on account of these measures comes to Rs. 942-8-0.

6. (i) (*a*) *Further reliefs by way of advance to cultivators.*—The only cultivators who may require advances are those whose lands have been silted up by the rush of water from tank breaches. These will be granted under the ordinary rules.

(*b*) *Further relief to the people rendered homeless.*—No further relief is necessary under this head as large number of shallow rooted trees were blown down by the storm both in Government and private lands. There is no scarcity of timber except bamboos. Most of the damaged houses have already been repaired or are in the process of being repaired. Loans for re-building houses, if applied for, will be granted under the ordinary rules.

(ii) *Further relief by other means.*—Nil.

(7) (*a*) 3-a and 3-b. Approximate estimated cost on account of repairs to Government property.

3-a. Cost of repairs to the two cattle pounds is estimated at Rs. 300.

3-b. Repairs to irrigation works are estimated at

Rs. 1,00,000 in Tindivanam taluk.
Rs. 20,000 in Gingee taluk.
Rs. 11,000 in Villupuram taluk.

Rs. 1,31,000

The above estimate does not include the cost of repairing the erosions on the bunds of tanks which have not breached. The cost of these repairs is not ascertainable as the Minor Irrigation Overseers are now engaged in the urgent and immediate work of closing breaches. Hence the total damage was estimated at Rs. 2,00,000.

(*b*) *Anticipated remission of revenue.*—In Tindivanam taluk it is reported to be Rs. 20,468 at present. This amount may rise to Rs. 60,000 according to the course of the season. It is estimated at Rs. 10,000 in Gingee taluk, Rs. 3,000 in Villupuram taluk and Rs. 700 in Cuddalore taluk.

(8) *Breaches closed by private agencies.*—The one breach in Cuddalore taluk was closed by the ryots.

(9) *Measures to prevent recurrence of such floods, etc.*—A most abnormal volume of water descended upon the three taluks of Tindivanam, Gingee and Villupuram from Wandiwash taluk of North Arcot district. The calingulas were of course inadequate to carry off the sudden and most exceptional supply. The only practicable measure to prevent the recurrence of such damages is to increase the width of the existing calingulas and to make an

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allowance for such increase while constructing new calingulas. The possibility of draining the Kaliveli—a natural lake near the coast which is a perpetual nuisance to the surrounding villages is being examined by the Public Works Department.

General—Paragraph 3 *of the Board's Reference.*—Free grants of palmyra trees have already been granted as stated against paragraph 5 in deserving cases and no further grant is reported to be necessary. No trees need be supplied at cost price to those rendered homeless but not too poor to pay for reasons stated against 6 (i) (*b*).

APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 202-A asked by Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1931, page 468, supra.]

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Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement,) No. R. 6976/30-2, dated 7th January 1931.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter from T. B. RUSSELL, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of North Arcot, Vellore, dated the 23rd December 1930, Ref. No. E. 8-14968/30.

[Floods—Palar and Cheyyar rivers—Report submitted.]

There was heavy rainfall with cyclonic winds on the 29th November last and the night previous to it, in Vellore, Cheyyar, Wandiwash, Wallajah and Polur taluks, the record of rainfall ranging from 6 to 14 inches, the latter in Vellore town. About 287 irrigation sources (166 Minor Irrigation and 121 Public Works Department sources) in the above five taluks breached, as a result of the storm, also about 28 tanks in the Arni estate. The heavy rainfall coupled with the discharge from the breached tanks brought down heavy floods in the Palar, Cheyyar and Poiney rivers. Luckily, for the villages adjoining the banks of the Palar the floods in it did not rise, as there were no breaches of tanks in the upper Palar in Mysore.

2. As a result of the floods, the South Indian Railway line near Vellore, breached and the flood banks constructed by the Public Works Department on the banks of the Palar and the Cheyyar were damaged in about four places —Communication between Vellore and Katpadi by rail and road was cut off on the 29th night and 30th November. Cheyyar and Wandiwash were likewise cut off from all communications from outside for about two days. The Palar between Ranipet and Arcot became unfordable. In Vellore, Cheyyar and Wandiwash, there was considerable fear of a catastrophe but fortunately, the floods subsided without any loss of human life; about 32 cattle were lost in a few villages in Wandiwash taluk.

About a dozen persons were marooned in the bungalows and houses in the fields and gardens near Vellore town and they were rescued on 30th November 1930 by the police, with the help of rafts got from Arcot for the purpose. The District Superintendent of Police, the Principal, Police Training School, and the Revenue Divisional Officer directed the rescue work.